

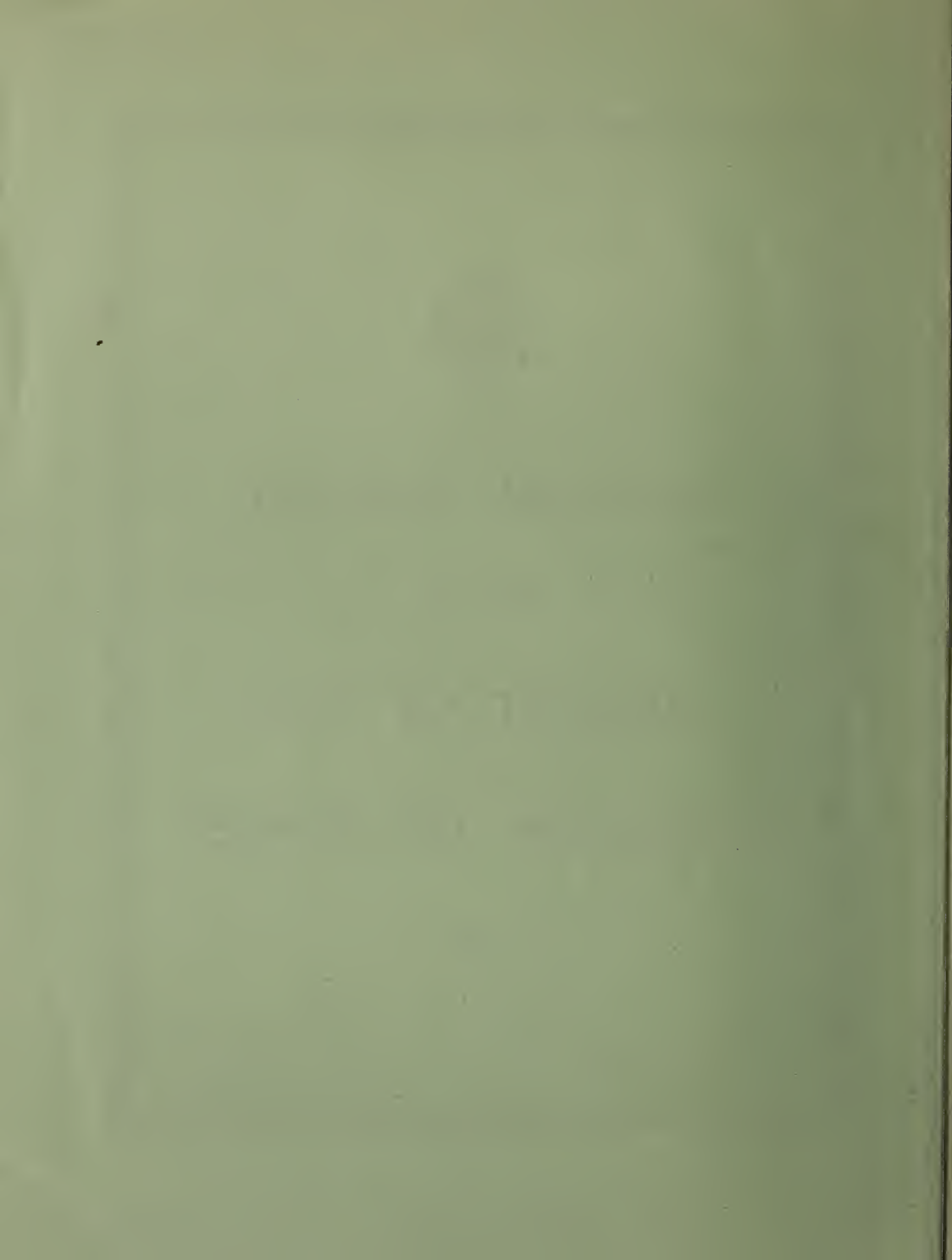


ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
HEALTH OF THE  
BOROUGH OF FOWEE

1938

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JORY, PRINTER, FOWEE.



# Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Fowey, YEAR 1938

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## SECTION A

### *Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.*

Area (in acres)—3,051·341.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1938—2,255.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)—640.

Number of families or separate occupiers—659.

Rateable value (March, 1938), £16,343.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£63 15s. 7d.

There have been no changes to record in the social conditions of the Area, which remain as stated in previous Reports.

The figures of tonnage entering the Port for the purpose of embarking china-clay showed a decrease of 51,862 tons over those for 1937.

### *Vital Statistics.*

Live Births—Legitimate—Male, 8; Female, 10.

„ —Illegitimate—none.

Total Live Births—18.

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—7·9.

(Annual birth-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales—15·1).

„ „ for 148 'smaller towns'—15·4).

Still-births—none.

Deaths—34.

Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—15·07.

(Annual death-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales, all causes—11·6).

„ „ for 148 'smaller towns'—11·0).

Deaths from puerperal causes—none.

Deaths from infants under one year of age—1.

Deaths from Cancer, all ages—11. (6 male; 5 female).

Deaths from Measles, all ages—none.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—none.

The deaths from Cancer show an increase of 9, as compared with 1937. There does not seem to be any reason to account for this increase in mortality. Facilities for diagnosis and treatment of this disease appear to be adequate.

### **Diseases notified.**

1 case of puerperal pyrexia ; 1 re-notification of a case of pulmonary tuberculosis.

### **Classification of Deaths during 1938.**

- 2 males and 1 female from chronic nephritis.
- 1 female from puerperal septicaemia.
- 1 male and 1 female from "senile causes."
- 1 male (infant) from "other violence," i.e., result of a fall.
- 1 female from diabetes.
- 1 male and 3 females from cerebral haemorrhage.
- 1 male and 5 females from heart-disease.
- 1 male from "other circulatory disease," i.e., pulmonary embolism.
- 1 male from bronchitis.
- 1 male from respiratory tuberculosis.
- 1 male from tubercular peritonitis.
- 6 males and 5 females from cancer.

### **Meteorological Data.**

	Rainfall	(average)	Sunshine	(average)
January	5·14"	3·95"	45·9 hrs.	58·5
February	1·78"	2·84"	72·6	76·7
March	·42"	3·15"	143·5	130·6
April	·08"	2·33"	229·8	176
May	3·22"	2·30"	152·1	190·7
June	1·59"	1·83"	218·5	230·6
July	3·69"	2·57"	138·7	201·3
August	6·06"	3·01"	157·7	178·2
September	2·39"	2·67"	148·6	152
October	3·56"	4·04"	120·9	115·2
November	6·91"	3·87"	47·4	74
December	3·83"	4·25"	63·5	47·3

The total recorded rainfall for the year showed a deficit of 1·86 ins., but the monthly figures laid out above show—

- 1—Excessive precipitation of rain in January, August and November, the figures for May and July also being above the average and August was a particularly bad month.
- 2—February, March and April showed a definite drought, the rainfall for these months showing a deficiency of 6·04 ins. as against the average.

Recorded hours of sunshine showed a deficiency of 91·9 hours.

## SECTION B

### *General Provision of Health Services for the Area.*

- 1 M.O.H. (part-time) for the Borough.
- 1 M.O.H. (part-time) for the Port Health Authority.
- 1 Sanitary Inspector (whole-time) for the Borough.
- 1 Sanitary Inspector (whole-time) for the Port Health Authority.
- 1 District Medical Officer, under Poor Law Acts.
- 1 Public Vaccinator.
- 1 District Nurse (Midwife), under the control of the County Nursing Association, who also does Health Visiting.

The creation of an Isolation Hospital for a joint area, of which this Borough is intended to form one of the units, has not apparently advanced any further than when my 1937 Report was written.

## SECTION C

### *Sanitary Circumstances of Area.*

1. WATER.—The chief work in this regard during 1938 was the completion of the work of re-laying the water-mains. This task presented considerable difficulties, owing largely to the narrowness of the streets and consequent unavoidable obstruction of traffic while the works were in progress. However, as the weather was, on the whole, remarkably fine during the street excavations, it was possible to get the task done with the least amount of inconvenience to the public.

During the early months of the year there was some anxiety about the water-supply, owing to a very dry spring, and restrictions of a precautionary nature had to be imposed, though water for domestic purposes was unaffected.

At periodic interval samples from both main and spring supplies were taken and sent to Truro for analysis. Six examinations, bacteriological and chemical, were made and the majority of the reports were quite satisfactory. In October a sample from mains sent for examination showed evidence of surface-water having gained access to the supply. A thorough inspection of sources and springs was made and there seemed nothing to account for the Analyst's remarks. The only explanation possible was that, for six or seven days preceding the taking of the sample, there had been an excessive rainfall. Owing to the shallow nature of the springs it is quite certain that, at the time of taking the sample, the supply was maintained primarily by rain-water.

Subsequent examinations seem to have proved the above theory, as the Analyst's report has been quite favourable since.

A spring at Hillhay, which it was hoped might be capable of incorporation in the Borough supply, showed evidence of B.Coli pollution, and therefore had to be ruled out as being unsafe for public use.

The village of Polkerris, having been absorbed into the Borough area, was found to have a rather primitive water-supply, and it was thought advisable to get a report upon it. The analysis proved to be quite satisfactory.

## **(2) Sewerage and Drainage.**

Further work was done in regard to improving the drainage upon the foreshore, as several of the premises had previously discharged on to the beach. These have now been connected up to a common outfall.

At Polkerris improvements were carried out in connection with drainage.

During the course of the water-main laying in the Borough quite a number of defects in the sewerage system were disclosed, and the opportunity was taken to remedy these and effect improvement where required.

## **(3) Sanitary Inspection of Area.**

65 visits of inspection were made for the purpose of testing new drainage systems and alterations to existing systems.

27 informal notices were served for the remedying of nuisances, and all the necessary work was carried out without the services of Statutory notices.

# **SECTION D**

## **Housing.**

24 Council Houses were completed and occupied, all of which have since been inspected and are, generally, well maintained.

### **I. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—**

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts .. 12
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 20
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head. (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... none
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... none
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 3
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 9

### **II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers	8
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### III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act 1936:

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. none
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners .. ... none

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... none

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. none
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ;—

(a) By owners .. ... none

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... none

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. none
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. none

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... none
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... none

### IV. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

- (a)—1 Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of year 1  
 2 Number of families dwelling therein ... 1  
 3 Number of persons dwelling therein ... 5

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... .. none

- (c)—1 Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year none  
 2 Number of persons concerned in such cases ... none

## SECTION E

### *Inspection and Supervision of Food.*

- (a) **Milk Supply**—There are 22 persons registered as milk producers, retailers, etc. 18 are producers, 10 being retail purveyors, 2 are local dairies, and 2 are retail purveyors with premises outside the Borough area. One of these later retails “accredited” milk. 43 visits have been made to the various farms and four visits

to the two dairies. The farms, generally, are of poor construction, not well-situated and of an old type. They are maintained, however, in a cleanly condition and whitewashing requirements are regularly carried out.

- (b) **Meat and other Foods**—102 visits of inspection were made to the two slaughter-houses within the Borough area, during which 111 bovines, 70 sheep, 90 pigs and 7 calves were inspected.

The following were condemned .—

- 1 Bovine carcase and viscera.
- 1 Sheep's carcase complete.
- 14 Pigs' heads.
- 5 Pigs' plucks.
- 6 Bovine livers.

The standard of animals slaughtered is a very high one and is well maintained.

The two slaughter-houses are licensed, and, in the case of one, extensive improvements were carried out before the license was renewed. Both are regularly limewashed and maintained in good condition.

Three new slaughterman's licences were issued and three renewed, making six in all.

- (c) **Adulteration, &c.**—No action has been required under the various Acts dealing with this matter.
- (d) **Chemical and Bacteriological examination of Food**—No action required under this heading. If necessary, samples would be sent to the Pathologist either at Plymouth or Truro.
- (e) **Nutrition**—No action taken or necessary.
- (f) **Shell-fish**—There are no shell-fish layings within the area of the Borough.
- (g) **Miscellaneous.**—

**BAKEHOUSES**—There is one bakehouse in the district, not of the modern type, but it is kept reasonably clean. Three visits were made to these premises.

**FACTORIES**—Six visits were made to various premises. Under the new Factory Act the definition of such premises has been widened, so that many more premises come under the purview of the Local Authority.

ICE CREAM—Four new premises were registered, making a total of eight (seven Vendors and one Manufacturer). All the premises were inspected during the year.

PLANS—Building was not active during the year (with the exception of the Council Houses already mentioned). 16 Plans were approved by the Council. Two of these were Bungalows and three were Garages.

MORTUARY—This was used on five occasions. It has been thoroughly cleaned and painted.

CAMPING—This method of holiday-making shows an increase in popularity, and, with such an increase, many problems arise in regard to sanitation, etc. Five sites were licensed and 14 visits made to various grounds during the season.

HOUSE & TRADE REFUSE—798 loads of House and Trade refuse were collected and deposited at the dump. The latter is regularly supervised in order to keep down the rat population, and there is not much evidence of these rodents.

## SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

1. The year was free from the presence of communicable disease and no cases thereof were notified.
2. There was one re-notification of a case of pulmonary tuberculosis, and one notification of puerperal septicaemia.
3. Deaths from Cancer numbered 11, ages ranging from 54 to 88.
4. (a) **Prevention of Blindness.**—No action necessary.
- (b) **Tuberculosis.**—No action necessary under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation 1925, or under Section 62 of Public Health Act, 1925.

5. **Tuberculosis.**—New cases and mortality during 1938.

<i>Age periods</i>		<i>New cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...								
1	...								
5	...	1						1	
10	...								
15	...		2						
25	...								
35	...								
45	...								
55	...					1			
65 & upwards	...								
Totals	...	1	2			1		1	

Notification of Tuberculosis appears to be efficient in the area, and there has been no case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

**A.R.P.**

In the autumn of 1938, after the "crisis," it was anticipated that the Borough would be expected to equip a small First Aid 'Post,' necessitating the enrolment of 20 or more individuals, and provisional arrangements to this end were being made, together with the formation of four Stretcher Parties. A class of instruction in First Aid was carried through, and the establishment of a Decontamination Centre was envisaged, but the projected arrangements outlined above have since been drastically altered by orders from Headquarters for an establishment no more ambitious than a First Aid 'Point' and two Stretcher Parties.

This no doubt, on paper, is a reasonable allocation for an area with a population such as this Borough has, but it has been pointed out, both by myself and the local A.R.P. Officer, that the local conditions call for treatment rather different to that applicable to a strictly rural area. Fowey has a deep-water harbour, and, in time of war, would quite conceivably be extensively used, not only for Naval purposes, but also for Mercantile purposes quite different from the normal peace-time loading of china-clay.

Further, it is quite certain that the population would be markedly increased in time of war by the influx of refugees both 'official' and 'unofficial.'

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Surgeon Lieut.-Comdr., R.N., (ret.),

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Fowey.



